Russian President's visit

3025. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian President Vladimir Putin, visited India for holding wide rang talks during the first week of this month;

(b) if so, the Indian leaders with whom he had discussed the issues and his reaction thereto;

(c) what has been his impression about the stand taken by Pakistan and China on cross border terrorism and threat of war with Iraq;

(d) whether any formal declaration was signed between the two countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the Russian commitment towards peace and development in India *vis-a-vis* South Asian sub-continent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During his visit to India from 3-5 December 2002, Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, called on our President, who also hosted a banquet in his honour. The Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha called on President Putin. President Putin and the Prime Minister of India had detailed discussions on bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. All these discussions reaffirmed the deep community of interest between India and Russia on a whole range of issues.

(c) During the official talks as well the press interaction, President Putin urged Pakistan to cease cross-border terrorism and to dismantle the infrastructure on its soil which has been set up for supporting terrorism. India and Russia strongly opposed unilateral use or threat of use of force in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as interference in the internal affairs of other States. It was stressed that a comprehensive

settlement of the situation around Iraq is possible only through political and diplomatic efforts in the strict conformity with the rules of international law and only under the aegis of the United Nations. India and Russia noted the importance of continuing intensive work with the Iraqi leadership in order to encourage it to cooperate in good faith with the United Nations.

(d) During the visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India from 3—5 December 2002, the two countries signed 6 official documents. Two commercial documents were also signed between the Canara Bank of India and the Vnesheconom Bank of the Russian Federation.

(e) Details of the official documents signed during the visit are given in Statement (*See* below).

(f) On the situation in South Asia, there was a convergence of views between India and the Russian Federation. This was reflected in the Joint Statement issued by the two sides on 4 December 2002. India and the Russian Federation stressed the importance of Islamabad implementing in full its obligations and promises to prevent the infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control into the State of Jammu and Kashmir and at other points across the border, as well as to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territory as a prerequisite for the renewal of the peaceful dialogue between the two countries to resolve all outstanding issues in a bilateral framework as envisaged in the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1998.

Statement

Details of the Official Documents signed on 4 December 2002 during the visit of the President of the Russian Federation

1. **Delhi Declaration on Further Consolidation of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir V. Putin:** This document contains the positions of the two sides on issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. During the visit of Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to India in October 2000, the two countries had signed a Declaration

on Strategic Partnership. In this document, the two sides have further enunciated their cooperation on political issues of mutual interest and concern. Russia has reaffirmed its support to India as a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The two sides have also outlined their common position on terrorism, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Middle East, etc. This document will widen and strengthen the framework of the existing cooperation between India and the Russian Federation in different areas and will contribute to consolidation of their strategic partnership.

2. **Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Vladimir V. Putin:** The document sets out the ideas of the two countries on further strengthening and enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. The two sides have decided to undertake several measures in this direction, including: Creation of a favourable environment for bilateral investment and its promotion and protection; Enabling business organizations to get the full support of financial institutions in their trade and investment exchanges. This would include expediting the opening of the branches of Indian commercial banks in Russia and vice-versa. Cooperation in this sector would include human resource development; Strengthening transportation links and infrastructure in different modes, within and between the two countries, in order to support increased flow of traffic in goods and services, as well as tourism and travel. Special importance will be attached to registering forward movement on bilateral and trilateral consultations to operationalize the North-South International Transport Corridor. Attention will also be paid to maintain effective communication links, especially in electronic and telecommunication fields; Streamlining customs administration to facilitate trade growth; Harmonizing national standardization and certification regulations relevant to trade and investment. This would encompass exchanges of empowered delegations representing the regulatory bodies of the two countries.

Such cooperation would also focus on removing technical barriers to trade between the two countries; Putting in place an efficient visa regime for business exchanges; Encouraging active interaction between the insurance sectors of the two countries; Exploring the possibilities of establishing a joint venture fund to help start up new enterprises; Consistent with bilateral agreements, encouraging economic interaction at the regional level.

3. **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism by Minister of External Affairs Shri Yashwant Sinha and Mr. Igor Ivanov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation:** Under this MoU, the two countries will set up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. It will be an inter-agency group on both sides and will be coordinated by their respective Foreign Offices.

4. **Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Protection and Use of Intellectual Property Rights to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation dated 30 June 1994 signed by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and S&T and Mr. Ilya Klebanov, Minister of Industry and S&T:** Under the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 1994, the two countries had to decide on the issue of intellectual property rights on the results of joint work in S&T field. The objective of this Protocol is therefore to deal with the issues of effective and proper acquisition, distribution, protection, sharing or transferring of intellectual property rights, created in the process of joint activity in the framework of the 1994 S&T agreement.

5. **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications betwen the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Russian Federation by Shri Pramod**

Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT and Mr. L. D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and Information: Under this MoU, the Ministries of Communications of the two countries will exchange information on telecom policy and regulatory issues, search for technical solution to achieve effectiveness in telecom sector, develop and apply advanced technologies in the field of telecom, and exchange experts and sharing training facilities in this sector.

6. **Protocol between the Government of the State of Karnataka of the Republic of India and the Samara Region Administration of the Russian Federation on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation signed by Shri S. M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka and Mr. K. A. Titov, Governor of the Samara Region:** This Protocol has been signed under the framework of the Government on Cooperation between the States and Union Territories of India and the Regions of Russia which was signed in October 2000. Karnataka and Samara Region will, in accordance with the laws of the two countries, will promote cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields, as well as in education, sports and tourism sectors.

Joint task force to improve intra-regional trade

3026. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint task force on enhancing trade relations with India's neighbours is being set up by the Ministries of External Affairs, Finance and Company Affairs and Commerce and Industry to explore ways to improve intra-regional trade;

(b) if so, the outcome of the suggestions made by the task force;

(c) whether any agreements have been reached with the neighbouring countries for boosting trade; and